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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of) **CUSTOMER NO. 27717**
Harold Mattice et al.)
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
CONTROLLING ACCESS TO AREAS) Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn
OF GAMING MACHINES)
Serial No.: 09/824,621) Group Art Unit: 3714
Filing Date: April 2, 2001) Confirmation No. 1062
Seyfarth Shaw Docket No. 403120)
Date: June 2, 2004)

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R371

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004.

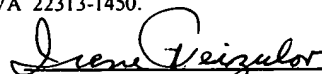
Restriction Requirement

The examiner, despite having examined all of the claims on the merits, in which the examiner required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-10, drawn to apparatus for controlling access to areas in a single gaming machine, classified in class 463, subclass 29.
- II. Claims 11-16, drawn to apparatus for controlling access to areas in a network of gaming machines, classified in class 463, subclass 42.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that, on June 2, 2004, this correspondence is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service, as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Irene Feizulov